

GARDENER'S GATE

Gardening for a Better World

How To...

Care for & Propagate Houseplants

Build a Garden Shredder

**Poinsettias: A
Christmas
Favourite**

**Best Advice for
Christmas Trees**

2020 Exhibition

FYIB

Open Gardens

Garden Competition

**Create your Own
Garden Journal**

Gardener Profile

**Leona & Colin Van
Buskirk**

Garden Escapades

Lost Gardens of Heligan

Winter 2020

Edmonton Horticultural Society

Editor's Letter

I love to tinker with my houseplants during the winter , even more so now that I'm working from home.

Each day I get the opportunity to mist my tropicals in support of humidity, add a bit of finished vermicompost here and there to boost soil nutrients, trim dead foliage, and rearrange my pots according to whim. My houseplants have never looked better!

As we go into the new year, I look forward to another joy of winter 'gardening' - in addition to my vermicompost bin tucked away in the basement, I look forward to developing my first germination station to encourage little seedlings for my vegetable patch.

How do you sustain the spirit of gardening over the winter? Write us and share on [EHS' Facebook page](#).

Lindsay Jarvis

EHS Communications Director
communications@edmontonhort.com



Calling for Volunteers

Established in 1909, the **Edmonton Horticultural Society** has played a major part of Edmonton's community for over 110 years.

EHS has three pillars of focus for all our gardening programs: **Urban Beautification, Food gardening & Sustainability.**

EHS is seeking a Treasurer and other program leads. Recruitment activities have been successful with exciting new program ideas from the recruits and current board members.

If you wish to volunteer and get involved, please contact us at president@edmontonhort.com



Become a Member of the Edmonton Horticultural Society

**EHS members get a discount at
most Edmonton area
greenhouses. With winter upon
us, you can use your membership
to get a discount on houseplants
and gifts too!**

**Become a member today! Visit
our [website](https://www.edmontonhort.com/) or contact EHS at
membership@edmontonhort.com**

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AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Alberta Horticultural Association
www.icangarden.com/clubs/AHA

Alberta Invasive Species Council
www.invasiveplants.ab.ca

Alberta Native Plant Council
www.anpc.ab.ca

Alberta Regional Lily Society
www.arls-lilies.org

Cactus & Succulent Society of Alberta
www.albertacactusandsucculent.org

Calgary Horticultural Society
www.calhort.org

Colouring the Canadian Landscape Foundation
www.cclf.info

Edmonton and Area Land Trust
www.ealt.ca

Edmonton Native Plant Group
www.edmontonnativeplantgroup.org

Edmonton Permaculture Guild
www.edmontonpermacultureguild.ca

Evergreen Garden Club
Josanne Thiessen at prairielily1@gmail.com

Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden
<https://friendsofubag.org/>

Glenora Gardening Club
Sheila Taschuk at shetaz77@gmail.com

Master Gardeners Association of Alberta
www.mgaab.org

Operation Fruit Rescue Edmonton
www.operationfruitrescue.org

Orchid Society of Alberta
www.orchidsalberta.com

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation
www.orchidspecies.ca

Sangudo & District Horticultural Club
Marlene Petersen at hpt1960@telus.net

St. Albert & District Garden Club
www.stalbertgardenclub.info

St. Albert Botanic Park
www.stalbertbotanicpark.com

Stony Plain Horticultural Society
www.sphsociety.ca

Strathcona Garden Club
Brenda Brooke at Brook_eb@yahoo.ca

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
www.history.alberta.ca/ukrainianvillage

Wetaskiwin Horticultural Society
Barb Lucas at bmlucas@telus.net

Interested in becoming a discount or Speaker Series vendor?
Email us officeadmin@edmontonhort.com

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Arch Greenhouses
archgreenhouses.com

Cheyenne Tree Farms
cheyennetree.ca

City of Edmonton Building & Parks
edmonton.ca

Classic Landscapes
classiclandscapes.com

Ellerslie Gift and Garden
ellersliegift.com

Greenland Garden Centre
greenlandgarden.com

Kuhlmann's Market Garden
kuhlmanns.com

Lee Valley Tools
leevalley.com

Manderley Turf Products
manderley.com

Millcreek Nursery
millcreeknursery.ca

Pegasus Publications
(Alberta Gardener)
localgardener.net

Salisbury Greenhouse
salisburygreenhouse.com

Sunstar Nurseries
sunstarnurseries.com

Timbertrim Treeworks Ltd.
timbertrim.ca

University of Alberta Botanic Garden
botanicgarden.ualberta.ca

The Wildbird General Store
wildbirdgeneralstore.com

MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

*EHS Members receive special pricing on non-sale purchases at these fine vendors.**

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Aspen Ridge Greenhouse	780-464-5527
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The Wildbird General Store	780-439-7333
Timbertrim Treeworks	780-449-8733
University of Alberta Botanic Garden	780-987-3054
Wild Birds Unlimited	587-521-2473

*A valid membership card and photo ID required. Offers subject to change without notice.

CONTRIBUTORS

Megan Andre is a Horticulturalist, Environmental Scientist, and 5th Generation Alberta Farmer. I have a background as a regulatory expert with experience managing projects from large to small. Don't hold all that against me, I've never outgrown my rural roots and still shovel (composted) manure into my city garden. I go no till, mulch with barley straw, and my passion shines when you ask me about local food innovations. I'm a visionary leader, hoping to enabling others with passion and purpose on my ever changing path. I've joined EHS as an opportunity to connect to local horticulture, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this community. Megan is the President of EHS.



Elizabeth Atherton-Reid loves a garden bursting with beauty. Vegetables are okay, but what she really goes for are big brassy flowers that fill her eyes with pleasure. Elizabeth wants to be charmed by trees and shrubs and interesting little nooks that make her smile every time she walks by them (even if it was just five minute ago!).

Susan Parker was born in Bury, England. She immigrated to Canada with her husband in 1976 and became a Canadian citizen in 1983. She has two children and five grandchildren whom she enjoys spending time with. Susan has been a member of the Edmonton Horticultural Society since 1995. Susan has worked in a greenhouse for almost 20 years. She has been involved in many gardening community projects such as the Twin Brooks community garden, Front Yards in Bloom and developing the Edmonton Valley Zoo vegetable and pollinator gardens. She has won the EHS Passionate Gardener of the Year.





Toso Bozic is a founder and CEO of ATTS Group and Yard Whispers. Toso was born on small family farm in Bosnia where he learnt great amount of growing variety of vegetables from his mother who has been an expert grower. Toso holds degree in Forest Engineering, he is member of Professional Agrologist and obtained an ISA Certified Arborist qualification. With 25 years' experience he gained comprehensive knowledge and technical skills in forestry, agroforestry, agriculture, renewable energy, waste management and business development.

Sherwood Botsford is in his third career: he's been a school teacher, a computer nerd, and now a tree farmer. In odd cracks of time, he's managed a dog kennel, run canoe and backpack expeditions, replaced well pumps, and installed satellite dishes. Sherwood is yet to have a job for which he had paper qualifications to do. My wife, Laura, and I run Sherwood's [Forests Tree Farm](#) with the help of 2-3 dogs, and variable numbers of local high school kids. Besides Christmas trees, we have niche for shelterbelt trees and edible landscaping.



Joe Gadbois has been an avid gardener and plant collector since he was a young boy. After discovering orchids during a grade school project, he developed an obsession with them that gradually spread to many other types of plants. Joe has a small garden in Edmonton and a large collection of indoor plants. He is a certified horticulturist (University of Guelph), Perennials Department Manager at Greenland Garden Centre and a 630 CHED Garden Show co-host.

Tamie Perryment is an avid lifelong gardener, lives in Parkdale area and has an Organic Master Gardener's Certificate from Gaia College. As a long time member of EHS, Tamie serves as Vice-President of the Edmonton Horticultural Society.



Lindsay Jarvis grew up gardening on her family's homestead in rural Alberta. Her fondest memories as a child include picking raspberries with her Baba (although she ate most of her pickings!). Now she enjoys hearing stories of pioneer gardening from her Baba and Papa over a bowl of raspberries & cream. In addition to gardening, Lindsay dedicates her time to hiking in mountainous regions of the world, birding, baking & watching reruns of *The Great British Baking Show*.



Jolene Courtney developed an appreciation for horticulture at an early age thanks to her grandmother. Since then, she has earned a B.App.Sc. in Production Horticulture from Olds College, become an Organic Master Gardener through Gaia College, is an ISA Certified Arborist, and is an all around lover of all things horticulture. She is inspired by the works of garden designer Piet Oudolf and is slowly (and happily) removing all the turf to expand her home garden into the oasis she dreams about.

Debbi Dickson received her Master Gardener Certificate from the University of Alberta Botanic Garden in 2011 and from the University of Saskatchewan in 2013.

Debbi has been an active EHS member and volunteer for a number of years, supporting Outreach efforts, volunteering at the Edmonton Valley Zoo, has been a friendly EHS Greeter at the Speaker's Series, a member of the Board Communication



WINTER CALENDAR

Dear Members,

EHS cares about our membership. It is clear that in the best interest of our community and members we need to shift to a virtual environment for meetings until further notice.

EHS' Annual General Meeting will take place online via Zoom in February 2021. More details and information will follow and will be posted on our website, Facebook group, and distributed to members via e-News.

EHS encourage you to call or reach out friends or family who may need support during this difficult time. While following recommendations for physical distancing is important maintaining social connections is more important than ever.

Here's to a better 2021!

Sincerely,



President's Message

By Megan Andre

This year it seems, it became winter overnight. You know the feeling, where the work of summer stretches out into fall. Then, there's that rush to wrap everything up before winter. This year, for me the rush continued for weeks. The weather was beautiful, even the tasks at the bottom of my fall list seemed to get completed. I was ready for winter to come.

I'll be ready for spring too. This year, will be a great year for gardening. I can already feel the enthusiasm building.



When life gives you lemon cucumbers. Photo by Megan Andre.

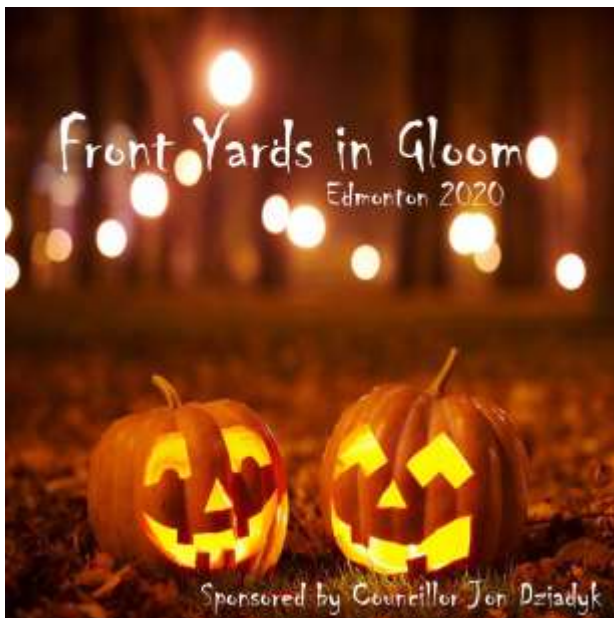
2020 Front Yards in Gloom

By Lindsay Jarvis

October 2020 saw many nominations of spooky, Halloween-themed yards around Edmonton for #frontyardsgloom.

The winning prize was awarded to the most spooktacular and festive haunted house at 11407-123 Street NW.

[Click here](#) to see a video of the Halloween yard.



Choosing a Christmas Tree

By Toso Bozic, P.Ag, Tree Expert/ISA Certified Arborist

[Yard Whisperers](#)

Nothing replaces the refreshing scent of a live Christmas tree in your house. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, you may visit a local Christmas tree grower for a U-cut or you may consider getting permits from the Government of Alberta and cut the tree from public lands. Each choice is an outdoor activity where the whole family can have fun. Picking out that perfect tree is a family ritual full of promise and fun- well sometimes there are few arguments about what the best tree is to choose from but overall, it is an extraordinarily good family experience.

Well over two million trees are harvested as Christmas trees across Canada each year. Many people don't know but we do have very few Christmas tree growers in Alberta and prairie provinces. The eastern provinces, British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington State are the major suppliers of Christmas trees to Western Canada.

Live vs Plastic Tree

For many people, there is an ethical dilemma about cutting a live 10-year-old tree just for a few weeks and multiyear use of plastic tree. Keep in mind that natural Christmas trees are biodegradable, we can replant them- renewable, they absorb CO2 and produce oxygen to us. Living trees also add more to us spiritually and emotionally as well. You will also support local tree farmer/ grower and leave very little greenhouse emission footprint

Having a plastic Christmas tree is unfortunately quite common for many of us. Choosing a plastic Christmas tree has its own challenges including material (mostly from PVC films) that trees are made from - fossil fuel and process of making plastic tree that involved high emissions of greenhouse gasses. Most of them are made in factories in China or other countries which includes additional greenhouse gas emissions from shipping as well. Plastic trees of course are not biodegradable, not renewable, create waste pollution and according to [USA Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) report some possible health issues related to PCV lead to contamination.

Tree species selection

Now when it comes to selecting a tree, you have few tree selection choices. I always start with the native balsam fir tree species which is often considered the 'real' Christmas tree and many growers grow this species for its special aroma. Balsam fir has a wonderful green colour and smooth needles which are not prickly. The aroma of balsam fir is so distinct and long lasting. Putting ornaments is

easy but may not hold good heavy ornaments as small branches may not have strong stiffness as white spruce or pine. There are several other fir trees such as Fraser, Caanan, Korean and maybe Douglas fir which is not fir at all.

Next choices are a variety of spruce trees. You may choose Colorado blue spruce, white spruce, and black hills spruce trees. All spruce trees have prickly short needles with an incredible ability to keep ornaments hanging well. Your pet may not come close to the Christmas trees due to prickliness. The colour of needles range from whitish blue to blue and dark green colours.

Lastly you may choose a few varieties of pine species. All pine trees have a needles in bundles of 2, 3 and 5. In Alberta, Lodgepole and Scots pine are the most common pine chosen for Christmas tree. Pine trees do not have dense needle crowdedness as fir and spruce, but they are excellent choices as well due to their aroma and long needles. Stiffness of branches are excellent for ornaments.



Pictured above: Fir Ever Green Tree Farm west of Wetaskiwin. Extraordinary experience for family to choose your Christmas tree.

Support Local Growers

In Alberta, there are a very few growers that offer u-cut Christmas trees. Every year I have to help one of the true Christmas grower- [Fir Ever Green Tree Farm](#) . This U-cut Christmas tree grower farm gives an incredible opportunity to talk with the grower, hundreds of his clients and most importantly, I learn about Christmas tree production. Many people do not know that it takes 8-10 years to grow a Christmas tree. It is hard work and production involves planting, watering, weed control, pest control,

shearing/shaping and making those trees perfect for you to buy. At Fir Ever Green Tree Farm, besides the fun of choosing the right tree, getting lost in a sea of Christmas trees, going on a sleigh riding and drinking hot chocolate, getting your tree from a u-cut also supports a hard-working Alberta farming family.

An option to going to a U-cut Christmas tree grower is to get a tree from Crown land. To do this, you will need obtain a permit from an [Alberta Government Forestry Office](#) to cut a tree.

Whatever you decide either U-cut from local tree growers or from public lands, make sure that you are dressed appropriately for cold weather, bring tree-cutting tools, and that you have room in your vehicle for the tree in, and let your friends or family know the location you are going to.

How to test freshness

When cutting your own tree, you know that it's fresh. When buying a Christmas tree, be sure to conduct a freshness test. Needles need to be shiny, green, and fresh while you grasp a branch between your thumb and forefinger and pull it towards you. If the tree is fresh, no more than 5 or 10 needles should come off in your hand, unless it is very cold and dry outside, and then a few more needles may come off. This is a good time to check the fragrance of the tree as well.

Fire Safety

Another important consideration when having a real Christmas tree in the house is fire safety. It's a wonderful family tradition but be sure to follow the instructions for keeping the tree watered so that it doesn't dry out and present a fire hazard. As well, real Christmas trees are 100 per cent reusable and recyclable. Once the needles are off you can chip it or use it in a woodstove or fire pit if the weather permits. You can also contact your municipality for details of where and how to recycle the tree in January.

Some key Christmas Tree Tips

Here are a few tips for choosing and caring for a Christmas tree:

- Measure the height and width of the area where the tree will be displayed. Tree that is two meters tall will be approximately 1.6 meters wide (7' tall will be 5' 6" wide) at the bottom.
- Some species have more open foliage, stiffer branches or longer needles – you may want to have an idea of your decorating theme before you pick your tree.
- The [Prairie Christmas Tree Growers Association](#) webpage provides many information about the characteristics of different species of trees that are sold as Christmas trees.
- Look for a retail lot that keeps its Christmas trees fresh in a protected area.
- Store the tree in a cool place, out of the wind and rain, until it is ready to be brought indoors.

- Place a tree moving bag under your tree, ready to be drawn up around the tree to make the disposal easy in January.
- Ensure your tree stand is large enough to hold four liters (one gallon) of water as well as the trunk of the tree.
- When bringing the tree indoors, cut 1 to 2 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch) off the tree stump before placing it in water – the cut must be no more than four hours old, otherwise sap will seal the cut and prevent the water from rising, thus drying out the tree.
- Avoid putting Christmas tree near direct heating sources such as fireplace, furnace vents or sunny windows.
- The first water fill should be with very warm water, enabling the sap to flow readily. As the tree thaws, water will be drawn upwards replenishing the moisture to the extremities. No additives are required.
- Have a family member top up the water twice daily so the base of the tree never dries out. Your tree will drink several liters of water every day for the first week or two.
- After the holidays, wrap the entire tree in the moving bag, and bring everything outside, including the stand, which can be easily removed once the tree is outdoors and on its side.



Poinsettias: A Christmas Favourite

By Susan Parker

With our gardens all tucked in for winter, our thoughts are now turning towards the upcoming festive season. One of my favourite things to do is to head out to a local greenhouse and pick up a Poinsettia, knowing me it will probably be two as it would be unusual for me just to bring one home!

The plant that we all recognize today has a long and interesting history. The Poinsettia has some deep historical roots that might surprise you. That lovely plant you place in your home every December was once used as a fever cure. A Central American native, the plant flourished in areas of Southern Mexico long before Christianity came to the Western Hemisphere. The ancient Aztecs found it blooming in the tropical highlands during the very short days of winter and named it "Cuetlaxochitl". The Aztecs used the plant for practical purposes, as they did with many elements of nature. They extracted purple dye from it for use in cosmetics and its milky white sap (latex) was used to treat fevers.

This plant would have remained a regional plant if not for Joel Robert Poinsett. The son of a French physician. Poinsett was appointed as the first US Ambassador to Mexico. Poinsett had graduated from medical school, but was a dedicated botany-lover (Mr.

Poinsett founded the institution known today as the revered Smithsonian). While in Mexico he became enchanted by these brilliant red blooms, he immediately sent some plants home and began propagating and sending them to friends and botanical gardens. Poinsett's good friend and fellow botanist, Robert Buist sold the plant as *Euphoria puncherrima* (which means beautiful).



Author, Susan Parker, in a sea of poinsettias at Virginia Park Greenhouses circa 2000.

The Poinsettia name became the accepted name in English speaking countries as it was Poinsett who first saw and brought it to North America in 1825. In the early 1900s, the Poinsettia began to gain popularity, Paul Ecke Sr developed the first poinsettia plants that could be grown indoors in grow pots. He began selling them at roadside stands in Hollywood, California. In 1923 he founded the Ecke Ranch that today provides nearly 80 percent of the plants that are brought and sold in North America.

When buying a Poinsettia look for plants with fresh flowers, the tiny buttons in the centre of each bract should be green or red tipped and not open, and covered in pollen to ensure the longest display of colour in the bracts. Poinsettias in bloom do better in a well lighted area where the light helps them to maintain their colour. They do just fine at room temperature .

Keep your poinsettia moist but not wet; wait to water until the surface of the soil feels dry to the touch. Don't let water sit in the bottom of the container, as these plants are prone to root rot. Take your plant out of the coloured sleeve to water and let the water run through to remove salts that collect from fertilization. Once you have purchased your poinsettia protection from cold, snow and frost is very important. Exposure to a few seconds of freezing temperatures or chilling winds may destroy your beautiful plant.



Pale pink poinsettias at Arch Greenhouse

Today there are dozens of varieties of poinsettias including whites, creams, variegated and pinks, and there are plants that look like very fancy varieties but which are simply painted. That's right- poinsettias don't come in blue!

When buying a poinsettia please consider buying from a local greenhouse, the poinsettia might cost you more money but the quality of the plant will far exceed any plant bought at a big box store. I know first hand the time and work that has gone into growing them, the cuttings arrive at the greenhouse towards the end of July, then comes the endless process of planting, watering, moving, pinching, fertilizing and testing. I can remember doing all these things back in days working at Virginia Park Greenhouse. I talked to Ray Granstrom who was the owner of the greenhouse the other day and I asked him how many poinsettia he used to grow, he said that it was 66,000.

Today I stopped by Arch Greenhouse and talked to Aaron Webb who is the Greenhouse Manager. This year they are growing 2,000 plants and 14 varieties of poinsettias. As always there are new varieties one of them is called a Princettia this is an early variety and is ready right now! One



Poinsettia 'Red Glitter' at Arch Greenhouse



Poinsettia 'Princettia' - a classic red

Poinsettia that caught my eye was called Red Glitter, Aaron was telling me that in Europe the poinsettia is being grown as a houseplant and not just for Christmas season and that they had grown an orange one for Halloween! Many thanks to Aaron Webb for all the information on Poinsettias, and please remember to shop at your local greenhouse.

Wishing you all a joyous festive season!

Stalking the Wild Christmas Tree

By Sherwood Botsford

[Sherwood's Forests](#)

Getting a wild tree was a tradition when I was young. It didn't save any money – the gas and wear and tear on the car cost more than a tree from a supermarket.

And the trees weren't really thick. But it was a time outdoors, in the winter with my dad. And that made it special.

In this, the Year of the Plague, going for a wild tree is a chance to get out of the house for an afternoon. Something much needed.

You have the dream. Now, how to make it happen.

Where can you cut a tree?

A: Crown Land.

You need a [permit](#). The permit costs you \$5 and allows you to cut three trees. The link above also has links to maps of where you can cut.

The nearest area to Edmonton with allowed cutting is near Lodgepole (a few miles from Drayton Valley). This area has both white spruce and lodgepole pine. You can cut along access roads, power lines, and survey lines, and non-major highways. Note that much of this isn't plowed. The roads don't have much traffic at the best of times. Getting stuck 10 km from pavement may be interesting. Cell service is spotty. Some oil companies have put in relay towers, but I've found that overall, you have only about once chance in four of having even a single bar.

I recommend that you park on the highway or at least on graded road, and walk in the rest of the way.

B: Cut-your-own

Fir-ever-Green, near Falun offers a cut your own option. We do too, although our selection and quality isn't as good as F.E.G. If there are others, please let me know.

Bringing it home

If you have a pickup this is easy. Put the tree in the box trunk first, and put a ratchet strap around the trunk. It's also easy if you have a car with roof rails. Tie to the tree, tie to the rails.

With a smooth top car it's not quite so easy. You need two chunks of rope about 10-12 feet long.



1. Tie the middle of one near the base of the trunk of the tree.
2. Tie the middle of the second about 3-4 feet higher on the tree.
3. Put the tree on the roof of the car base forward. You may want a protective blanket on the roof.
4. Open all 4 car doors.
5. Throw the ropes in on passenger side doors. Get in, close the door, and tie a knot in the rope so that the knot is just inside the car. Repeat on the backseat rope.
6. Close the doors on that side.
7. Get in on the driver's side, and tie a loop in the rope from the closed side over the left edge of the passenger seat.
8. Close the door, pull as much slack in as you can on the driver's side. Tie a knot and work it as close to the door as you can.
9. These knots keep the trees from shifting back and forth on your roof.
10. Run the free end through the loop in the other end, pull tight, and tie. If this results in the loop being in the driver's way, undo, and retie the loop closer to the passenger door.
11. Repeat for the back rope in the back seat.

Pines vs spruce and fir

In our part of the world the vast majority of Christmas trees are spruce and fir. These have the overall general cone shape. In parts of the U.S. pines are more favoured.



Spruce (LH) or Pine (RH) - the choice is yours. Both make great Christmas trees.

Pines tend to be clusters of bottle brushes. This makes them easier to hang ornaments on, but harder to make the wires inconspicuous.

American vs European style Trees

The common Christmas tree in North America has been sheared several times. This results in a thick, bushy tree. Ornaments and lights are on the surface of a nearly perfect cone. Europeans tend to prefer a more natural tree. One with well spaced branches. You are not going to find a really bushy tree in the wild. Open trees have several advantages:

- Even in a window, they don't block all the light coming in. During the day, outdoor light reflects off of ornaments and tinsel.
- There is room for many more (and larger) ornaments.
- Ornaments on the backside of the tree can be seen from the front.



Spruce (LH) or Pine (RH).
Natural trees tend to be more open and allow and have many advantages.



Tricks for decorating with a wild open tree

As usual, put lights on first. Start by going up and down the trunk. Go all the way to the top. On subsequent passes go up the trunk, then out on a branch out about 2/3 of the branch, and back to the trunk. Try to avoid going from one branch to the next branch, as the wires are unsightly. Keeping them at 2/3 of the branch will help make them inconspicuous.

Or you can wrap the tree in spirals of lights a few inches back from the tips. Let each strand swoop a bit. Tweak until the swoops are similar. Now, spiral tinsel garland around the wires.

An open tree can use more ornaments. Hang small ornaments near the tips of the branches. In the interior you can hang medium and large ornaments. For space between levels of branches tie a loop of black thread onto the ornament, and use a normal ornament hook on the loop. This will make the ornament appear to float in space. You can also use ribbon or hanging ornaments.



Another trick with open trees: Put some of the presents in the tree. No, you can't put the 20 pound lego set in the tree. But presents like watches, jewelry, the cheque from Grandma, some of the little stocking stuffer presents that would otherwise go in socks. Presents can either be laid across a couple of branches near the trunk, or you can use the same hang-from-a-thread like the larger ornaments.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Tamie Perryment

Now that winter is upon us and you have done as much as you can do in your yard, now is the time to plan for next year. I am still bargaining with the weather wanting a sunny day or two to finish some tasks in my yard.

One-way to plan for next year if you have not already, is to start a Garden Journal. If you have one and you are like me, you probably spent more time in the garden than filling out your Gardening Journal. If you do not have one, my suggestion is you create your own. I have ordered one of these Journals online but found it did not fit my gardening needs. I like something that is practical. You can adapt the Gardening Journal to you own needs. There are many samples of page details online.

Here are a couple such links to check out:

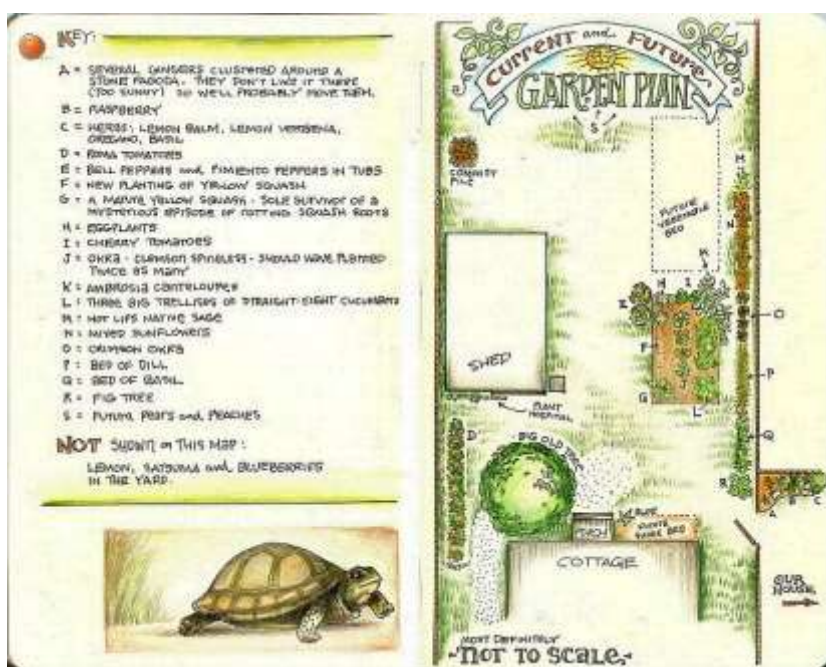
- [How to set up a Garden Journal](#)

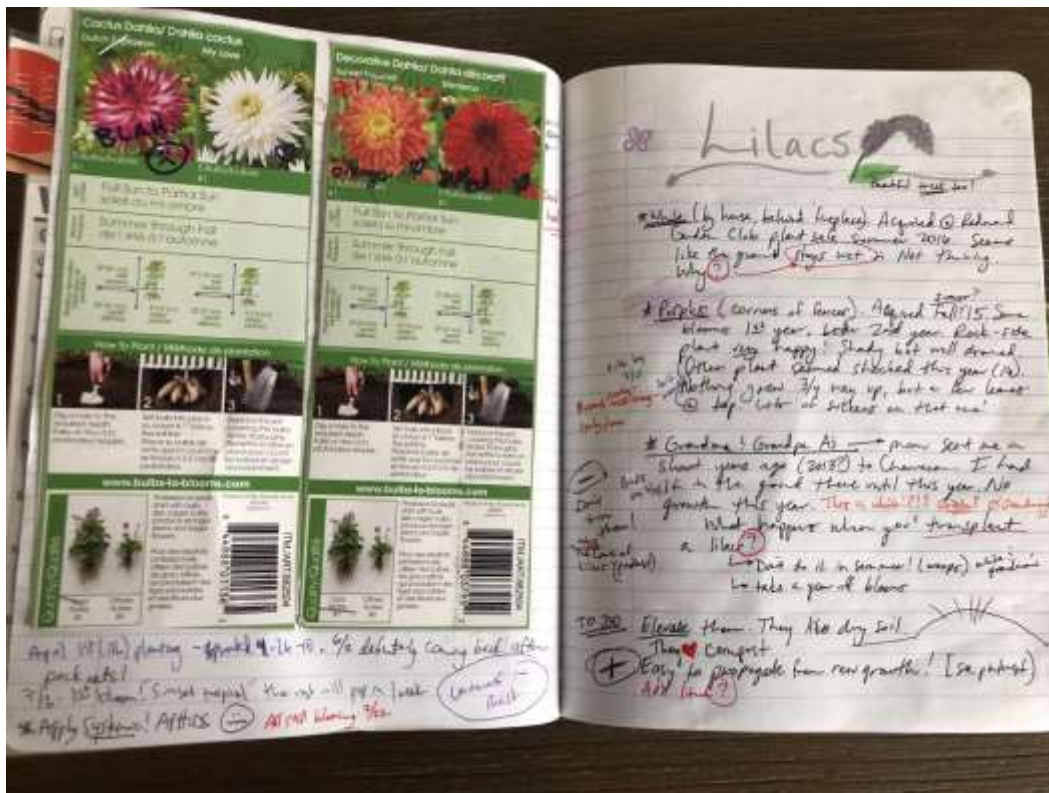
- [Why keeping a garden journal is a good idea](#)

A Gardening Journal can be creative and it can become a beautiful record of your garden that you can pick up and work on it again and again. One famous Garden Journal is

Lady Mayo's Diary. Lady Mayo's Garden: The Diary of a Lost 19th Century Irish Landscape. You can also

make a Garden Journal for someone else and use it as a present. If you prefer you can also download an app, which can be used alone or in addition to your Gardening Journal. I have included a list of some apps to explore. I have not checked them out but they can be useful in identifying plants or watering reminders.





Some suggestions for a Table of Contents for your Gardening Journal:

Introduction

- Reflections of the past year
 - Drawing of your garden
- Plants planted this year-Successes/loss
- Plants & plans to consider for following year
- Weather report from previous summer
 - Bugs, Diseases & Cures

To Do List

- List of Yearly Tasks

Garden Details

- Flowers
- Vegetables
- Shrub
- Herbs

Miscellaneous

- Plant Purchases

For a free printable garden journal, [click here](#).

Have fun making your own gardening journal this winter!

Gardener Profile: Leona and Colin Van Buskirk

By Debbi Dickson

Have you ever had the pleasure of visiting Leona and Colin's yard? If not, you really should! They have a spectacular yard. Their yard is so amazing; it won the Grand Challenge Award in the EHS 2020 Garden Competition.

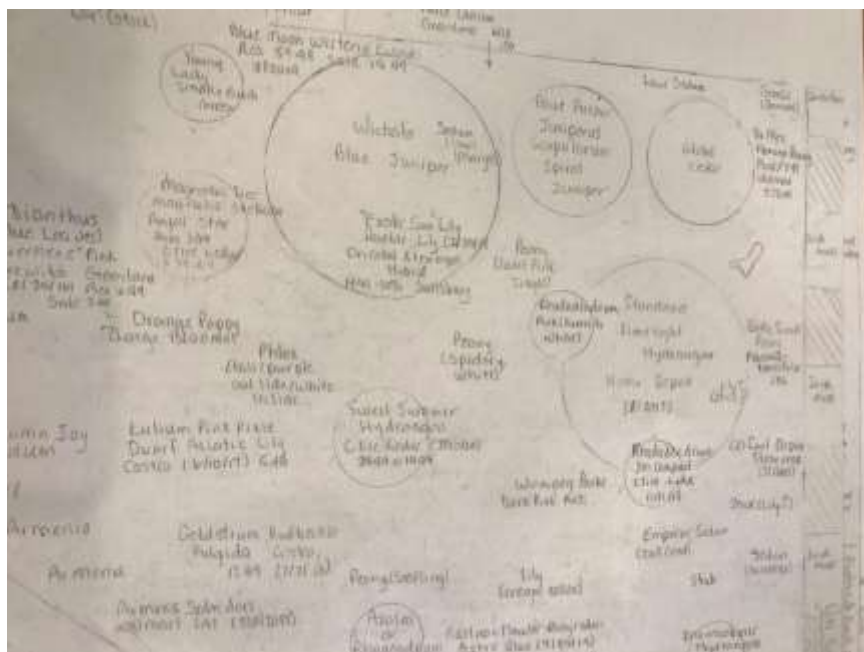
Leona and Colin have a long history of gardening. They were both raised on farms, one in Innisfree and one in Ross Creek. Leona spent many hours tending to vegetable and flower gardens with her Mom and siblings; yard work was way more enjoyable than being stuck in the house. Colin had his own garden plot at a very young age. His Mom would let him order a new package of seeds every year when she placed her order from the Bowden Nursery catalogue. Colin would alternate his order between flowers and some fast growing vegetables – usually pumpkins.

Leona and Colin have had a few yards over the years, one in Millwoods, one in Ermineskin, one in Twin Brooks and their current house and garden in Windermere. Leona and Colin have been very generous

with showcasing their yards, hosting several Open Gardens and volunteering their yard to be on the EHS Garden Tour.



In the year 2000 Leona underwent back surgery to correct and align vertebrae and to restore natural spinal alignment. Recovery time was a whole year. During this time Leona spent many hours gazing out the windows at the yard, reading gardening magazines and books and designing the garden. She tracked the sun to determine the best plant locations and to determine which plants liked to be planted together. She constructed a map so when it was time to landscape she knew exactly where to put the plants. This map was followed and changed as required and became a record of all the garden plantings. The map included the name of the plants, the year the plants were purchased, the cost of the plants and where the plants were purchased. Leona maintains the map even today. Leona was told by her Doctor that she would not be very flexible following the surgery. Therefore; the garden was designed with many raised flower and shrub beds.



Have you ever seen Leona working in her garden? You would never know that she had back surgery. Leona not only works in her lovely garden, but she also maintains beds at the entrance to the community pond situated right next to their yard, under the City of Edmonton Partners in Parks program and she also plants and maintains the Windermere North community front entrance beds for the Home Owners Association.



Leona and Colin have, over the years won many awards for their garden. In 2012, Leona was the recipient of the EHS Gardener of the Year Award. In 2013, they won the EHS Garden Competition Grand Challenge award. In 2016, Leona was awarded the City of Edmonton Partners in Parks Award and their garden was awarded the Communities in Bloom Miracle-Gro Best Garden Selection Award.

Leona and Colin's yard has been a Front Yards in Bloom Nominee practically every year since 2005. Their yard placed in the top 6 in 2013, received an Award of Merit in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and placed 3rd in the general category in 2017.

Leona has passed on her love of gardening to her own family and has helped each of her children with garden design and the procurement of plants; mostly extra plants from her own garden. People like to ask Leona about gardening and Leona is very willing to share her experiences with gardening. This became very evident last summer when due to the Covid 19 pandemic, many more people were out in their gardens and would often come by to ask Leona some gardening question.



Leona's best advice is to begin with good dirt (1/3 black dirt, 1/3 sand and 1/3 peat moss) and water, water, water, keep shrubs and trees trimmed, ignore garden zones and avoid buying plants at full price (unless really desired). Gardening does not stop in winter. Winter is the time to update the gardening map, order seeds and plants from catalogues, water cedars and other outside trees and plants and water the trees and plants that are overwintering in the garage several times during winter. There is always a lot to do and she always looks forward to the upcoming gardening season.

Ask Your Local Expert

Winter Care of Houseplants

By Joe Gadbois, Certified Horticulturalist & Perennials Dept. Manager
[Greenland Garden Centre](#)

Winter in our climate tends to be the most stressful time of year for houseplants. During these months the plants have to contend with lower light levels, temperatures that are often less than ideal, and low humidity. For tropical plants, these are challenging conditions.

Without much to do in the garden over winter, we can devote a little more attention to our houseplants at this time of year. I often joke that, ironically, my houseplants look better in the winter when I am tending to them daily, while in the spring and summer I am so busy with work and spending time outside that the plants can suffer a little bit!

Read on for some tips on how you can keep your houseplants looking great over the winter months.

Watering

With lower temperatures and light levels, plants will absorb less water in the winter, and therefore your watering should decrease. It is important not to keep your watering on a strict schedule year-round, because your plants' water needs are dynamic, changing depending on environmental conditions. Instead, you should get into the habit of checking your plants every few days to see if they need water. Familiarize yourself with the water needs of each plant in your collection; for example, ferns and peace lilies like to stay consistently moist, while ZZ plants and succulents like to be on the dry side. Most houseplants like to be thoroughly watered once they have almost (but not completely) dried out. Usually, it is best not to water when in doubt, especially in winter. It is much easier in most cases to revive an underwatered plant than an overwatered plant.

How can you tell if a plant is being overwatered? Often, the symptoms are very similar to underwatering, as roots that have rotted from being waterlogged will be unable to transport water to the top growth. Excessive yellowing, leaf drop, wilting and shriveling despite soil that does not appear to be dry are often signs of overwatering. Do not be afraid to check the root system, as the majority of plant problems are related to watering/soil conditions. I strongly recommend watering in the morning as opposed to late afternoon/evening to help prevent disease problems.

Light

Move your plants as close to windows as possible in winter (without touching the cold glass) – they will need as much light as they can get. Sunburn is not a concern with houseplants over the winter months due to the low angle of the sun. Do not use curtains or blinds to shade your windows over the winter. Plants that are stretching for light (especially common with cacti and succulents) may need supplemental artificial light. Purchase a high quality fluorescent or LED grow light and position it 6-12" above the foliage. Run grow lights for 12 hours per day in the winter.

Fertilizer

As with watering, fertilizer needs are reduced in the winter months. Plants that go essentially dormant in winter, such as cacti, should not be fertilized until growth resumes. Plants that are still growing, just at a slower rate, can be fertilized once per month. A general purpose fertilizer (ideally with micronutrients – look for elements like iron listed under “Guaranteed Minimum Analysis” on the package) or similar is fine for most plants. Schultz Indoor Plant Food (10-15-10) works well and is easy to mix with water.

Temperature

Most houseplants are fine with the same temperatures we find comfortable. Most flowering tropics (including orchids) require cooler conditions in winter in order to flower. If you like to keep your house warm over winter, keep these plants in a cool room or positioned directly in front of windows, where it tends to be cooler. When it is extremely cold outside, be careful not to place plants too close to the window – a foot or so away is fine. You will also want to avoid placing plants in drafty areas.

When bringing new plants home, ensure your car is pre-heated and do not make any stops on the way home unless you leave the car running. Make sure plants are wrapped well in paper before leaving the greenhouse. If plants suddenly collapse, turn black, or start dropping tons of leaves within a few days after bringing them home, chances are they were chilled in transport.

Humidity

Central heating combined with our naturally dry winter air is less than ideal for houseplants, however there are many types that will adapt to it. Redirect the dry air coming out of heat registers so it does not blow directly on your plants, and if the plants' other needs are being met, they will generally do fine. If, however, you are growing plants that need high humidity (such as Calatheas and



carnivorous plants), and dry air is a concern, I recommend running a humidifier. You can also try growing in an enclosed space such as a terrarium. Keep in mind, however, that high humidity should be accompanied with constant air movement, as moist, stagnant air leads to disease problems.

What about humidity trays – trays filled with pebbles and water? Unless your growing space is sealed off, these won't have much of an effect, as "localized humidity" isn't really a thing; water vapour disperses to fill the volume of the entire space it occupies, so the small amount of water in your tray is feebly trying to humidify your entire home, as opposed to just the area your plants are growing in. Misting is beneficial but short-lived; avoid misting late in the day to prevent disease.

Repotting

The coldest and darkest part of winter – December and January – is generally not the best time to repot houseplants. Because plants are not actively growing and producing new roots, they will be slower to recover, and depending on the type of plant they may sulk for some time in their new home before they start to root out and continue to grow. Exceptions can be made, for example if you have purchased new plants and they are rootbound or growing in a potting mix you are not comfortable with, or if you have plants that are in poor health due to being overpotted or in a stale potting mix that is causing root rot. February and March are one of the best times to repot, as plants will be starting into growth and will generally root out quickly afterwards. Always remember not to overpot – 1-2 sizes up is usually the biggest you should go. Overpotting is a common mistake that leads to root rot and decline of health, because there is too much volume of soil compared to root mass, and the roots can suffocate. Also, pots with drainage holes are strongly recommended. Use high quality potting soil – my favourite is Pro-Mix HP, which can be stored dry if you do not need to use the whole bale. If you don't have storage space, you can also use Pro-Mix's Tropical Plant Soil or Premium Potting Soil; some plants may need extra perlite added for improved porosity.



Pest Problems

While cooler temperatures mean insects will reproduce more slowly than in the summer, plants already stressed by difficult growing conditions can be more susceptible to insect and disease problems. In particular, spider mites can be a major issue with dry winter air. Trying to keep the humidity higher helps with this, as does a weekly "bath" – spider mites and other insects are discouraged by the presence of moisture. In general, check your plants every week for signs of

trouble, as early detection is key to preventing disaster with pests. Don't forget to isolate new purchases for at least 2 weeks – things like mealy bugs are very good at hiding!

If you are experiencing persistent insect problems, insecticidal soap and Safer's End-All can be sprayed (follow label directions). With fungal and bacterial diseases, unfortunately some surgery is needed; cut off the infected portions with a sharp, sterile blade. Preventing disease problems by following the practices outlined throughout this article is the best method of control.

Leaf Drop

It is part of the natural lifecycle of plants to shed their oldest (lower/inner) leaves as they grow. Some leaf drop, particularly over winter, is therefore normal and nothing to be alarmed about. As alluded to previously, excessive leaf drop can be the result of cultural and environmental stressors (chilling, lack of light, watering, etc.) or pest problems.

Conclusion

I hope you have found this article informative. Winter is a great time to get into indoor gardening, as garden centres will have a great selection of tropical plants. If you tend to get the winter blues, gardening with tropicals is sure to help you make it through to spring. If you have any questions, I and my colleagues at Greenland are always happy to help. Cheers!

How to... Propagate Houseplants

By Lindsay Jarvis

One of the joys of winter is tending to your houseplants. By creating an indoor oasis, you can withstand the season's frostiest weather surrounded by greenery.

My love of houseplants began when I was a child. My parents, always the greenthumbs, had plenty of indoor assorted tropical plants throughout our home. Now in my own home in Edmonton, I have amassed 47 houseplants; 22 of which I've propagated through cuttings.

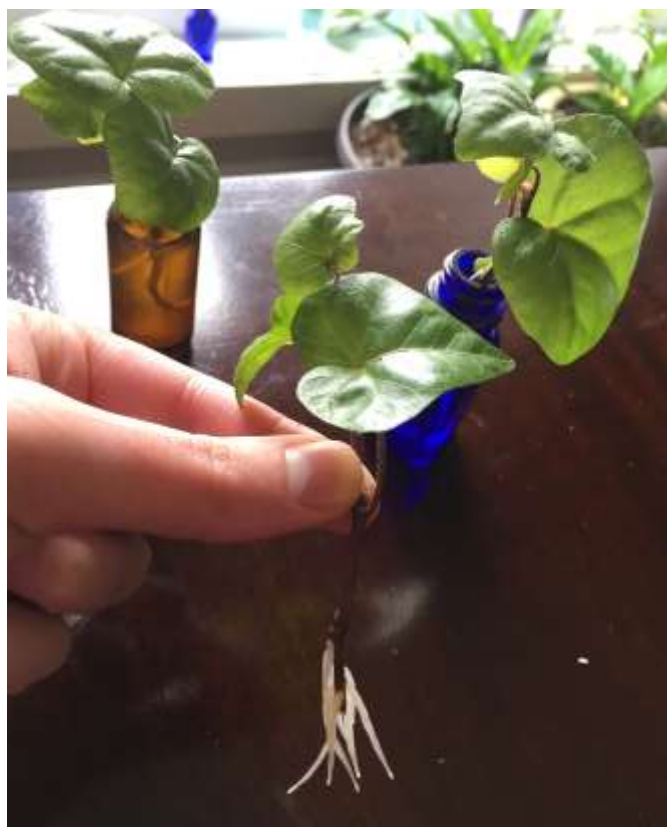


Here are three pictures of grape ivy in my home. Pictured left—my mature ivy. This grape ivy is 13 years old and was my *very first houseplant EVER*—I've had it since my first year of university when I lived in Lister Residence. The middle photo is of a rooted cutting—it's taken approximately 2 months for these roots to develop out of the node at the base of the cutting. Pictured right is a pot of juvenile grape ivy—at approximately 6 months old, the cuttings are developing well into a nice bushy plant.

Propagating is easy if you are patient and select the right plants. Some houseplants are certainly easier to propagate than others, including: spider plants, pothos, grape ivy, English ivy, and all kinds of succulents (such as burro's tail, string of pearls, jade plant, crassula).

Although each genera of plant may be propagated a bit differently, here are some general rules of thumb:

1. Select a healthy stem of the plant you wish to propagate. To increase your chance of successfully propagating, the stem should be:
 - A) A young green stem (not woody & mature growth) with minimal leafy growth
 - B) ~7-10 cm in length (not too big or small)
 - C) Most importantly, include a node. A node is a bump or joint in the stem where another leaf, bud or stem attaches and/or grows from. The node is from where the roots will grow from the cutting.
2. Before you make your cutting, ensure that you make the cut right below the node in order that the node will be one end of the cutting (this is where the roots will grow from).
3. Strip away any growth from the bottom half of the cutting where the node is.
4. Place the cutting in water, node-end down, and place in a sunny spot. You can put a transparent plastic bag (e.g. ziploc) over the entire cutting and glass to mimic a greenhouse.
5. Ensure the water level remains constant - you will have to top up water on a weekly basis as water evaporates (particularly over the dry winter months).
6. When there is visible and vigorous root growth, you can pot it up in potting mix and watch it grow.



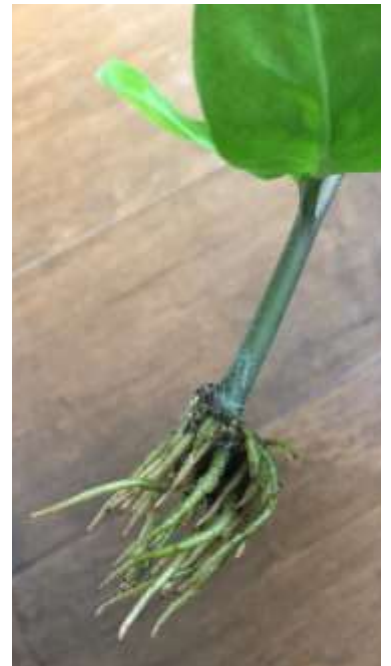
Succulents

In my experience, propagating succulents can be very easy and with minimal plant material. Tall branching succulents, like jade plant and ZZ plant (aka *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*, pictured right) can be made into cuttings, rooted in water and then transplanted.

Other mounded or trailing succulents are even easier to propagate. Instead of cutting off an entire stem, these succulents can be propagated by a single leaf.

1. Pick a healthy succulent leaf and simply place it on damp soil. Cover the container with a transparent plastic bag to mimic a greenhouse.
2. *Lightly* water the soil on a weekly basis or mist with water occasionally (3-4 times a week in the dry winter months).
3. Eventually, you will see little roots eventually grow from the leaf and anchor to the soil. Let grow and transplant to other containers as you see fit.

Pro tip: upcycle old containers into pots: candle tins, jam jars, tea tins, even old cooking pots—see below—after the handle broke off an old cook pot, I threw a couple coats of acrylic paint, and *voila* new plant pot!



How to...Make a Garden Shredder

By Elizabeth Atherton-Reid

When my friend Kathryn told me in August that her husband had made her a garden shredder out of an electric lawn mower, I was excited. Chopping up fall garden waste by hand is a drag and for years, I've wished for a functional garden shredder, the kind that costs \$1000.00 or more and would mean I could make compost from all my garden waste.

Kathryn sent me pictures and I also looked online and was amazed at how many ways there are to repurpose an electric mower to become a shredder.

What You Need

What you need the most is to be a handy person or have a spouse, neighbour, friend, or relative who is handy! I am not handy but luckily my husband Noel is and he loves having a project. Before I knew it, he had checked out Kijiji and come home with a used electric mower for \$10.00. Here is the list of items he used to make our shredder.

- Electric lawn mower with a plug in cord
- 2x2's (could be a 2x4 split in half) to make the frame for the plywood box
- 3/8 inch plywood, 1 sheet, (could be 1/4 inch plywood) to make a box. Ours is 19 inches square and 26 inches high with an open bottom and a lift off top
- Toggle switch of some kind

Steps

- 1) Take mower apart and pull out the motor and blade, and remove the blade from the motor
- 2) Build a wooden frame for the box with 2x2's and cover the sides with plywood



Electric lawnmower waiting to be turned into a shredder





Frame for shredder



Frame covered in plywood



Lid with motor and blade

- 3) Build a lid that just sits on the top. The bottom is left open to empty the chopped material
- 4) Drill a hole in the lid for an axle to run through which attaches the blade underneath the lid to the motor on the top
- 5) Cover the motor with a plywood box
- 6) Make an opening about 4x4 in the lid and make a plywood hopper about 12 inches tall to fit that opening.
- 7) Make a stick (like a plunger) to push stuff down into the hopper if needed
- 8) Attach a toggle switch on top to easily turn the motor on or off.

Results

The first shredding we did were the recently-pruned raspberry canes.

We were able to shred all our garden waste including leaves and small sticks and branches up to about ¼ inch. The soil on the roots of the plants we pulled from pots went through the shredder adding bacteria to the compost bins.

It only took 2 or 3 days for the compost bins to heat up. I danced a jig when I felt that heat.



Safety

We all had a turn operating the shredder, including my teenage granddaughters who helped me with garden cleanup. We wore goggles, ear plugs and gloves. The material needed to be fed slowly or the blade would grab it and whip it through too fast to be shredded or it could even get plugged if you pushed too much through at a time. The hopper guided the material and we used a push stick to keep the material moving if needed.



Elizabeth's granddaughter, Halle safely uses the shredder



End result: mulched raspberry canes

If You Want A Shredder

The examples on YouTube were quite varied showing many ways to transform a mower to a shredder. Noel says he would be happy to share his experience with this project. You can phone him at 780-432-5492.

2020 Garden Competition

By Jolene Courtney

Once an annual tradition in the EHS, the garden competition had been on hiatus since 2016, it seemed like a good time to dust it off for the 2020 growing season after the annual garden tour was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. This year the competition was run with the same thirteen entry categories it left off with back in 2016. Locally crafted plaques will be distributed to first place winners in each category.

To keep things low contact and physically distanced we did not print and distribute entry booklets, judging forms, and judging completion forms this year. We even completed our judge training session via a Zoom meeting. The training session and some really great judging stories were provided by expert judge Lorna McIlroy, a representative of the Alberta Horticulture Association. Lorna has had some fantastic experiences in her years judging all over the world with Communities in Bloom.

Thank-you to all of the entrants in the competition this year, you are all an inspiration to us and to your community. Congratulations on your achievements realized through this labour of love and thank-you for opening your gardens to our volunteers. To the volunteers: thank-you for volunteering your time, your words of praise, your encouragement and your constructive feedback for all the entrants this year. I was really impressed by the insights and thoughtfulness in the judging forms, it's wonderful to have so many passionate gardeners helping each other improve and develop their craft.

There was a total of 37 entries in the 12 of 13 categories available. 23 unique participants entered the competition, with 11 volunteer judges, a few volunteer photographers, and possibly a partridge in a pear tree. The only category that didn't receive any entrants this year was the Children's Garden category. Judging took place on July 13th and 14th, 2020.

CLASS 1: HOME GARDEN GRAND CHALLENGE

In the Grand Challenge category there was a very close race this year. The winner and the honorable mentions were separated by a single point. There were three entrants in this class and each of the entrants has participated in previous Garden Tours.

First Place: Leona Van Buskirk

Honourable Mention: Mike Barudzija

Honourable Mention: Terry Daly

If you have had the privilege of viewing Leona's yard in previous Garden Tours or Open Gardens, or her former yard which was also a former Garden Tour and Open Garden stop; then you know what a

fantastic treat it is to experience her lush garden. This garden is meticulously maintained and is obviously a labour of love and lifelong gardening.



CLASS 2: NEWLY DESIGNED GARDEN

First Place: Sarah Thiele

This immaculate garden has a lot of great qualities. It has a well-hidden Tolkienesque hillside playhouse that makes you want to be a kid again; carefully planned outdoor living spaces and surrounding gardens with a great selection of plants that are on their way to maturity. The greenhouse is constructed of white-painted paned windows from old Edmonton houses. This greenhouse would make any gardener even more excited to plan their late winter seeding for the upcoming growing season.



CLASS 3: DECORATIVE FRONT GARDEN & CLASS 4: DECORATIVE BACK GARDEN

First Place: Lisa Neuls

Lisa clearly has a passion and a knack for all things horticulture as she won every category she entered this year. The well tended front yard was filled with an enchanting array of lush, healthy plants and a design that provides a magical woodland feeling. The enchanted woodland garden feeling continues into Lisa's backyard. The many garden spaces here are enhanced by quirky details and even more lush plants.



CLASS 5: MIXED PERENNIAL BED or BORDER

First Place: Lisa Neuls

The use of evergreens in this giant front yard bed gives the feel and reminds one of visiting gardens on Vancouver Island.

CLASS 6: COLLECTIONS

First Place: Debbi Dickson

The mature trees surrounding this property help to provide the perfect climate for this winning hosta collection. More impressive was the lack of evidence that slugs love these tasty morsels. However, we know they are always there, just lurking in the background.



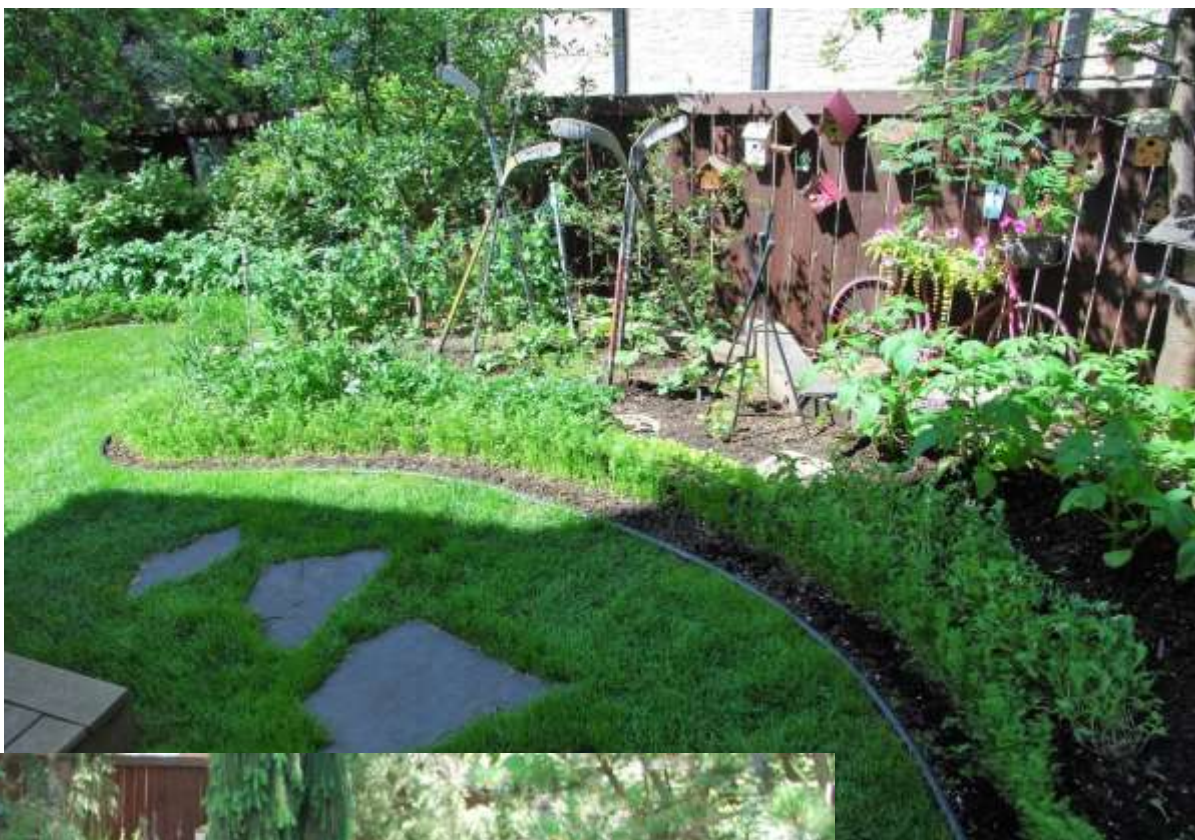
Photo Supplied by D.Dickson

CLASS 7: EDIBLE (Vegetable and Fruit) GARDEN & CLASS 8: WATER GARDEN

First Place: Lisa Neuls

Is there anything more Canadian than hockey stick trellises in your veggie garden? Even the vegetable plantings have a sense of whimsy in this garden.

Lisa also won first place for her water feature. Built into this tiered backyard garden must be something to experience at night while sitting between the firepit that is strategically located in front of the raised pond. In the daytime, sitting on the ledge and enjoying the various water plants, while the dappled sunlight dances on the leaves and the sounds of the waterfall as the water drops from the charming little creek that feeds it, would also be a delight to the senses.

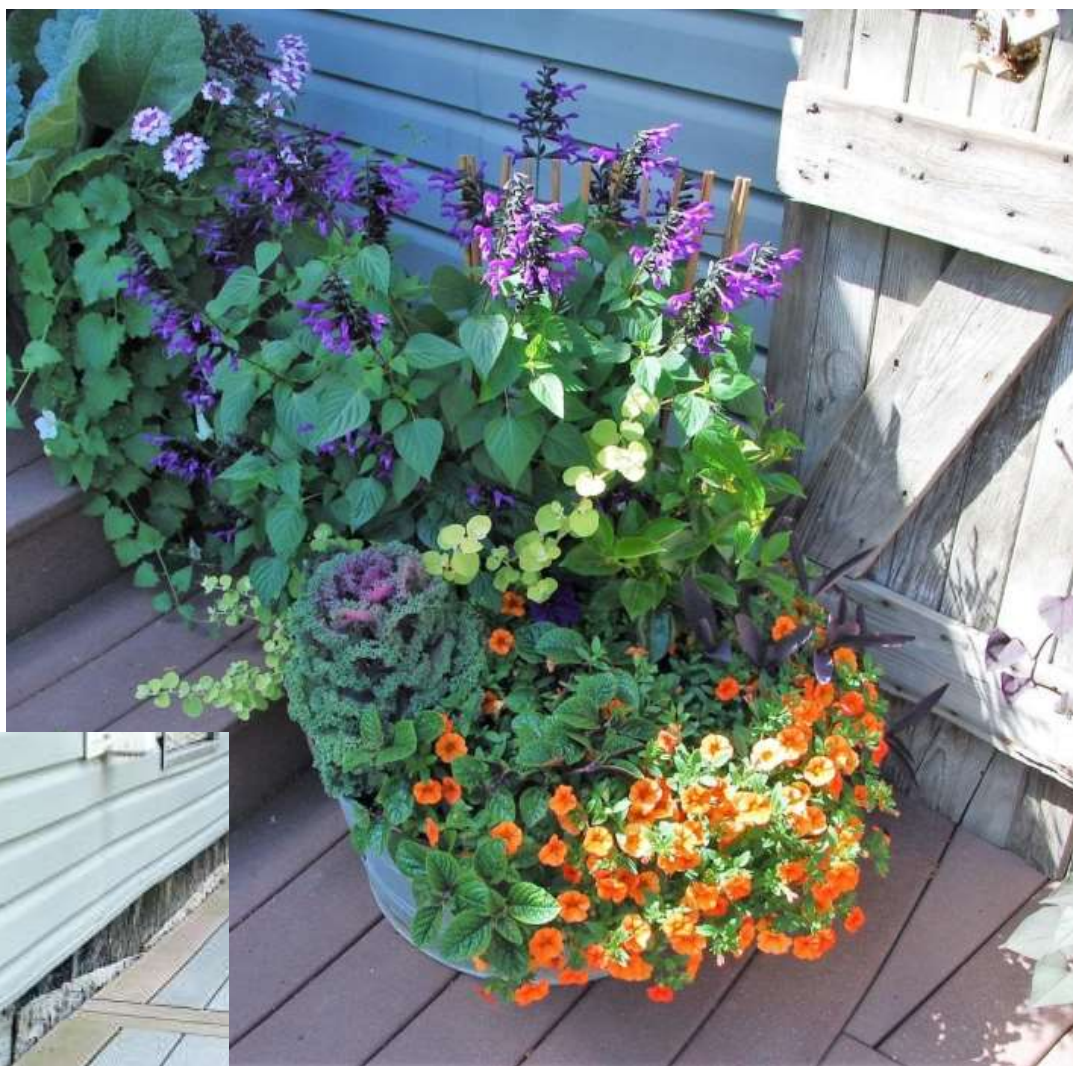


CLASS 9A: SINGLE CONTAINER, Includes FAIRY GARDENS

First & Second Place: Lisa Neuls

Lisa entered this category twice and both entries placed at the top, amongst some pretty stiff competition.

In first place the winning container was a charming old washtub filled with a gorgeous planting of salvia, flowering kale and other various fillers and spillers. In second place was a clever fairy garden complete with an adorable wine cork retaining wall and creative, delicate plantings surrounding the boot-shaped fairy house and tennis court.



CLASS 9B: CONTAINER COLLECTION & CLASS 10: SPECIALIZED AREA OF THE GARDEN

First Place: Elizabeth Atherton-Reid

Elizabeth has a fascinating collection of containers; on her fence mounted mantel features plantings in teapots and old canisters. It is the quirkiness of the mantel and its accessories that give this

connecting walkway the feeling of a very cozy outdoor living room.

Elizabeth also won first place for her “Art Wall” as the family calls it, is an outdoor art gallery which showcases various pieces of art that have been created by family members. The art pieces work together with several fun and creative plantings to successfully liven up what was, once upon a time, a dreary walkway.



CLASS 11: CHILDREN'S GARDEN

No entries received.

CLASS 12: COMMUNITY GARDEN

First Place: Strathearn Community Garden

This impeccably tended community garden is both functional and fun.



Thank-you once again to all of the entrants and volunteers that participated in this year's competition. Your passion for gardening is amazing and inspirational.

Open Gardens 2020

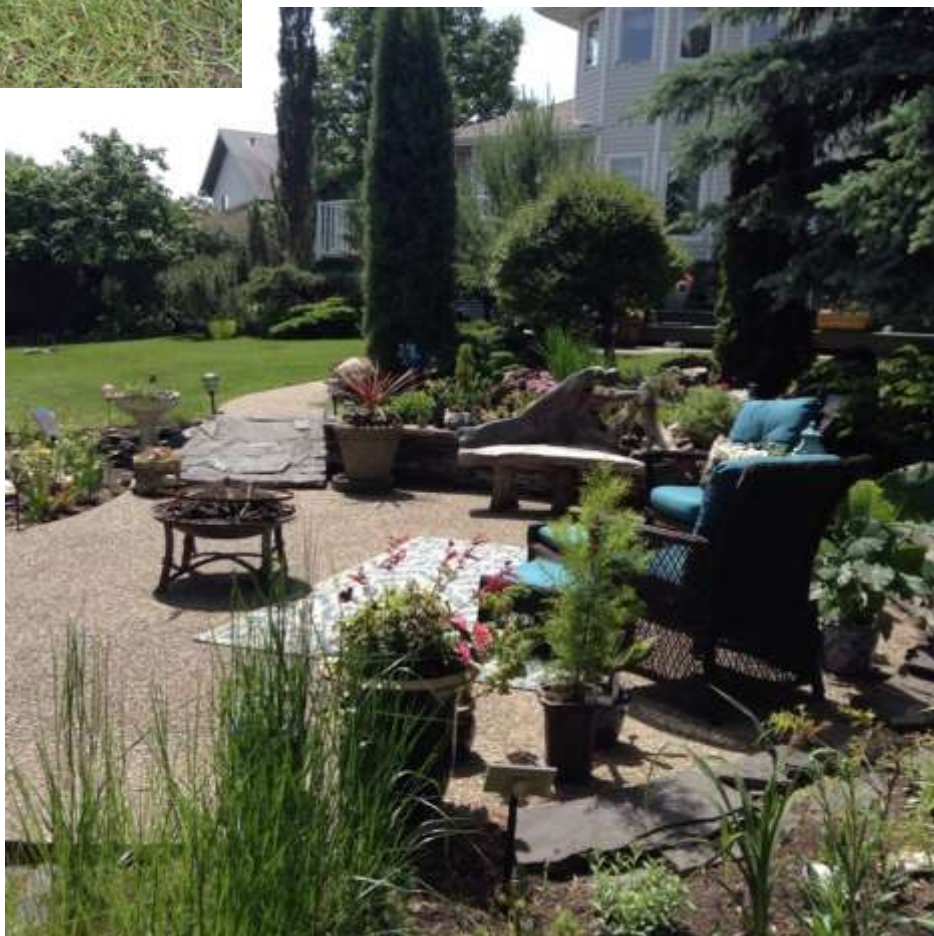
By Debbi Dickson

The 2020 EHS Open Gardens program showcased 3 gardens in July and August of 2020. The gardens were as varied as the homeowners that hosted them to the membership. Following are a few of the highlights.



July 19, 2020: Lisa Neuls held the first Open Garden of 2020. Her garden is located in St. Albert and was definitely worth the drive.

July 26, 2020: Susan Parker opened up her garden to members this summer. Although some people have seen Susan's garden in previous years, it is definitely worth a second look.



August 2, 2020: The day that Janice Martin opened her garden to members it was a warm 30 degrees Celsius. It was a bit of a jaunt to get to Janice's garden but oh so worth it.



2020 Front Yards in Bloom

By Debbi Dickson

As gardeners, we all know that gardening supports wellness, both physically and mentally. This became very apparent this past summer as greenhouses, nurseries and farmers' markets were declared essential by Alberta Health Services during the ongoing pandemic. Gardening experienced an impressive resurgence in popularity and Front Yards in Bloom did not disappoint.

Front Yards in Bloom 2020 had over 5500 nominations in the categories of: General Yards, Tiny Yards, Natural Yards, Edible Yards, Balconies and Public Spaces. Volunteers cautiously delivered the new Front Yards in Bloom signs and judged all nominated yards.

Susan Schofield was once again the EHS program lead for Front Yards in Bloom. Susan and her team were responsible for judging and selecting the final top 6 General yards and the final top 3 Tiny Yards. These yards were then presented to the Public to vote on. However, due to the Covid19 pandemic and Alberta Health Services guidelines, the annual Front Yards in Bloom Awards Ceremony had to be cancelled.

Here are the winners:

General Category, 1st Place: 6128 Ada Boulevard NW



General Category, 2nd Place: 1404 115 Street NW



General Category, 3rd Place: 7802 132A Avenue NW



General Category, Honourable Mention: 13916 91A Avenue NW



General Category, Honourable Mention: 14608 80 Street NW



General Category, Honourable Mention: 8126 24 Avenue NW



Tiny Yards, 1st Place: 11405 71 Street NW



Tiny Yards, 2nd Place: 1505 76 Street SW



Tiny Yards, 3rd Place: 9713 96A Street NW



Thank you to everyone who spent time beautifying their yards this past summer.

Garden Escapades

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

By Tamie Perryment

If you had to make a bucket list of gardens you would like to visit, which ones would be on your list?

What entices you to a garden? A

Japanese garden, rose garden or a look of different plants? There is such variety in what gardens are out there, their beauty, their mystery and their expertise in the garden world.

There are gardens with deep history, formal gardens, reclaimed gardens and gardens that have been around for a long time.



The one garden that is on my bucket list

is the Lost Gardens of Heligan. According to Wikipedia “The Lost Gardens of Heligan” (Cornish: Lowarth Helygen, meaning “willow tree garden”) is a botanical garden located near Mevagissey in Cornwall, England....The gardens were created by members of the Cornish Tremayne family from the mid-18th century to the beginning of the 20th century, and still form part of the family's Heligan estate. The gardens were neglected after the First World War and restored only in the 1990s....”

The gardens have a fascinating history and restoration, leaving me with a sense of those who were there long ago and who have worked on it since. The gardens include rhododendrons, camellias, a series of lakes, flower and vegetable gardens and a wild area with tree ferns. There is also a pineapple pit and figurines made out of rocks and plants.

According to John Fowles “Heligan is a modern miracle”....What you are now seeing here is less a fascinating garden...than the almost archaeological resurrection of a concept, a way of life most of us have only read about....”



What entices me is the history, the scope of the plants, the jungle, the variety and the mystery surrounding the gardens.

If you wish to know more there are books written on the gardens, which describe the history and restoration process or books with beautiful pictures of the garden.

Recently I picked up a book on the gardens called of course. “The Lost Gardens of Heligan” by Tim Smit. I am looking forward to reading it.





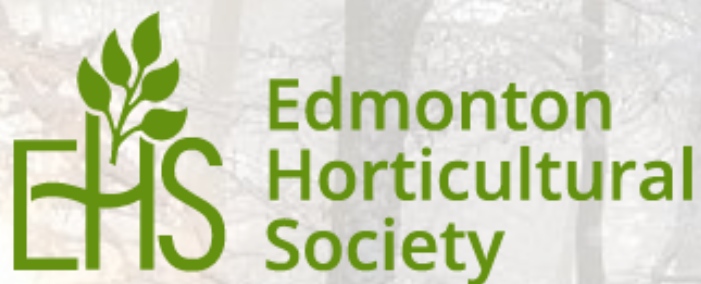
Seasons Greetings

&

Happy New Year

Edmonton Horticultural
Society appreciates your
continued support and
engagement!





Since 1909, the Edmonton Horticultural Society has been promoting gardening in Edmonton. We welcome gardeners of all ages and skill levels to learn, share, and grow with us.

We champion **sustainable practices**, promote **urban beautification**, and encourage **food gardening** within our communities and city.

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